

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: December 14, 2015
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Business

- *District Budget Sharing Information Meeting* – The Regional School District #19 Board of Education will hold a district budget sharing information meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the E. O. Smith High School Library Media Center. Finance Chair Bill Ryan and I plan to attend; please see [item number 17](#) in your meeting packet for more information.
- *General Assembly's Special Session* – The General Assembly has approved a deficit mitigation plan to provide \$350 million in savings to address the current FY16 budget shortfall. Municipal aid was largely held intact for FY16, with the exception of those reductions listed in the attached. These reductions will not directly impact Mansfield.
- *Reception for Mayor Paterson* – Former Mayor Paterson's recognition reception was held on December 4th at the Mansfield Community Center. The event was well attended and the guest of honor was very pleased. Mayor Paul Shapiro ably served as Master of Ceremonies and guest speakers included Congressman Joe Courtney, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, Secretary of State Denise Merrill, Senator Mae Flexer, and more adoring fans from UConn, CCM and Mansfield. Special thanks to the Mansfield Middle School chamber choir and the E. O. Smith High School jazz ensemble for the entertainment, Dog Lane Café for the delicious food and staff members Curt Vincente, Mary Stanton and Sarah Delia for the event coordination.
- *Storrs Center Ordinances* - The Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee will meet on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 6:00 PM to discuss ordinances related to Storrs Center and other public areas in town.

Department Reports

- *Planning and Development*
 - Curt Hirsch's Retirement – Zoning Enforcement Officer Curt Hirsh is retiring after 30+ years of dedicated service to the Town of Mansfield. The ZEO's job is not an easy one, I commend Curt for his contributions to the community. In addition to his regular duties, Curt has always been willing to contribute his time to the organization and to community events, and its people like Curt who help make an organization and a community a special place. We will hold a retirement celebration in Curt's honor at 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 17, 2015 in the Council Chamber. All are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Storrs Farmers Market is open year-round! The Winter Market will be open twice a month from December through April in the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Public Library. Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be open from 3:00 to 5:00 PM on the following dates: Dec 19; Jan 2, 16 and 30; Feb 13 and 27; Mar 12 and 26; and Apr 9 and 23. Everything sold at Storrs Winter Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut, so the offerings change with the seasons. Visit storrsfarmersmarket.org for more information and to sign up for weekly emails from the Market (bi-weekly in the winter).

- *Winter Welcome* – The Mansfield Downtown Partnership hosted the 3rd Annual Winter Welcome on Saturday, December 5. Good weather and a variety of activities attracted the largest crowd to date. Visitors enjoyed ice sculptures by UConn Dining Services, a wreath-making activity with The Flower Pot, and vendors with gifts and goodies – all on the Town Square – plus, strolling carolers and musicians throughout downtown as well as treats and specials at participating businesses. As promised, Santa Claus arrived aboard a Mountain Dairy milk truck shortly before 2:00 PM and visited with friends at the UConn Co-op Bookstore in Storrs Center until 4:00 PM, at which time the E. O. Smith High School Chamber Singers led a community sing-along on the Town Square. Through generous donations from Partnership Board members, the oak tree at the corner of the Town Square was awash with light through the evening. The Partnership thanks all those who made Winter Welcome a success, including The Wilder Companies; UConn Marching Band Tubas; Mansfield Senior Chorus; E. O. Smith High School Chamber Singers; Mountain Dairy; The Flower Pot; UConn Dining Services; Keifer's Kettle Korn; Not Only Juice; UConn Co-op Bookstore at Storrs Center; BLISS; Educational Playcare; Friendly Fire Game Center; Froyoworld; Geno's Grille; H. A. Café; Head Husky Barber Styling Shop; Main Street Homes at Storrs Center; The Oaks on the Square; Subway; Sweet Emotions Candy; ThinkitDrinkit and The UPS Store. The Partnership also thanks Mansfield resident Janine Callahan for photographing the event. Photos of Winter Welcome can be viewed on the Partnership's Facebook page: facebook.com/MansfieldDowntownPartnership.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Conservation Commission, Wednesday, December 16, 2015, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, December 17, 2015, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee, December 21, 2015, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Traffic Authority, December 22, 2015, 9:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*